



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland

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Firework and Campground Information on the Routt National Forest

(Steamboat Springs, Co. June 25, 2009) – The Forest Service is reminding people to leave their fireworks at home if they are visiting the Routt National Forest this July 4 holiday. Fireworks are never allowed on national forests. Fireworks reach extreme temperatures and can start forest fires.

People are also reminded to be responsible with their campfires and to watch out for falling trees. “We have a dead, brown canopy of lodgepole pine in many areas of the forest due to a landscape-scale bark beetle epidemic” said Fire Management Officer Tony Tezak. “Dead trees can fall without warning, endangering people and blocking roads. The dead, dry canopy is also ripe for large, fast-moving fires. Any fires in these canopies, along with a little wind, could create extremely hazardous conditions,” Tezak said. Although there are no fire restrictions at this time, we cannot stress enough how careful people must be with campfires in the forest.

People visiting the National Forest will also find that some campgrounds are still closed due the removal of beetle-killed trees, construction, and/or snow conditions. The following campgrounds on Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District will be closed for the 4th of July weekend: Granite and Hahns Peak Lake. Closed campgrounds on the Parks Ranger District include: Aspen, Pines, and Teal Lake. For the most current campground information, including amenities provided, please contact the Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District at 970-870-2299 or the Parks Ranger District at 970-723-8204.

All of the campgrounds on the Yampa Ranger are open for the 4th of July weekend. For more information, please contact the Yampa Ranger District at 970-638-4516.

Remember National Forests and Grasslands are public lands owned by all citizens, so please take care of your National Forest. For more information about recreation on your national forests, please visit www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr.

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